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APPLICANTS: ELKE HELFTENBEIN-1 (PCT)  
SERIAL NO.: 09/762,643 FILED: FEBRUARY 9, 2001  
PCT NO.: PCT/EP99/05857 PCT FILED: AUGUST 12, 1999  
TITLE: VESSEL FOR BLOOD SAMPLING

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ATTN: BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Ass't. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the initial Office Action, please amend the  
above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On Page 1, above line 1, please insert the following  
paragraphs:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicant claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of GERMAN  
Application No. 198 36 559.4 filed on August 12, 1998. Applicant  
also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 of PCT/EP99/05857,  
filed on August 12, 1999. The international application under  
PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to related applications has been inserted on page 1. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
ELKE HELFTENBEIN

  
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**Express Mail No. EL 871 446 518 US**  
**Date of Deposit July 31, 2001**

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to the Ass't. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

  
Lisa L. Vulpis